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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SWART ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN  
Serial No.: 09/844,965 Group Art Unit: 1744  
Filed: APRIL 27, 2001 Docket: 163.1385US01  
Due Date: JULY 27, 2001  
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CLEANING, HIGH LEVEL DISINFECTION, OR  
STERILIZATION OF MEDICAL OR DENTAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 27, 2001.

By:

*Kristine A. Wallace*  
Kristine A. Wallace

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 14 Reference(s)
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By:

*Mark T. Skoog*  
Name: Mark T. Skoog  
Reg. No.: 40,178  
MSkoog:PSTdb



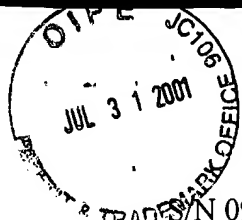
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT

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Serial No.:	09/844,965	Group Art Unit:	1744
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 27, 2001.

By: *Kristine A. Wacek*  
*Kristine A. Wacek*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not

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represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

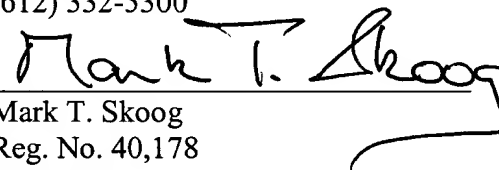
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: July 27, 2001

  
Mark T. Skoog  
Reg. No. 40,178  
MTS:PSTdb

FORM 1449\*

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

## IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number:

163.1385US01

Application Number:

09/844,965

Applicant: SWART ET AL.

Filing Date: 04/27/2001

Group Art Unit: 1744

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	3,481,687	12/02/1969	Fishman			
	3,708,263	01/02/1973	Boucher			
	3,837,805	09/24/1974	Boucher			
	4,448,750	05/15/1984	Fuesting			
	5,407,354	04/18/1995	Fife			
	5,480,302	01/02/1996	Fife			
	5,686,045	11/11/1997	Carter			
	5,837,303	11/17/1998	Hayden			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	1 264 688	03/28/1968	DE				X
	195 02 133 A1	08/01/1996	DE				X
	0 173 876 B1	06/21/1989	EP				X
	1 297 489	11/22/1972	GB				
	2749288	05/13/1998	JP				X
	WO 96/11073	04/18/1996	PCT				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)




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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.